

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0432.01 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 25-154

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ENHANCING ACCESS TO EDUCATOR PATHWAYS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires an early childhood special education, elementary, or special education generalist licensure endorsement candidate who meets the minimum coursework standards by successfully completing a content-based or a performance-based assessment (assessments) to successfully complete certain assessments.

A candidate for an early childhood special education licensure endorsement must successfully complete no more than 2 assessments that measure:

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

- Knowledge and skills important for the safe and effective practice of a special education teacher who serves students from birth through third grade; and
- Knowledge and skills that an initial teacher must have to support the reading and writing development of students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

A candidate for an elementary licensure endorsement must successfully complete no more than 2 assessments that measure:

- Mathematical knowledge and skills that are essential for students in kindergarten through sixth grade; and
- Knowledge and skills that an initial teacher must have to support the reading and writing development of students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

A candidate for a special education generalist licensure endorsement must successfully complete no more than 2 assessments that measure:

- Basic principles of general special education and the application of those principles to realistic situations; and
- Knowledge and skills that an initial teacher must have to support the reading and writing development of students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The bill clarifies that 4-year institutions of higher education that offer programs of off-campus instruction and that have courses included in the guaranteed transfer pathway matrix or that are part of a statewide degree transfer agreement may participate in the teacher recruitment education and preparation program.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-106, **amend**
 3 (2) as follows:

4 **22-60.5-106. Endorsement of license - effect - rules.**

5 (2) Notwithstanding the discretionary authority granted in subsection (1)
 6 of this section, the department of education shall issue a special education
 7 teacher endorsement to ~~an applicant~~ A CANDIDATE who completes
 8 coursework and assessments, as specified by rule of the state board of
 9 education AND AS SPECIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-203 (6)(a), in
 10 a program in special education, EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION,

1 ANDELEMENTARY EDUCATION offered by an accepted institution of higher
2 education or an alternative teacher preparation program for special
3 education, EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, AND ELEMENTARY
4 EDUCATION offered by a designated agency, which ~~program~~ has been
5 approved by the state board of education.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-203, **amend**
7 (2), (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(b), (6) introductory portion, (6)(a),
8 and (6)(b) introductory portion as follows:

9 **22-60.5-203. Assessment of professional competencies -**
10 **multiple measures to assess professional competencies - rules.** (2) The
11 state board by rule shall identify the professional competencies required
12 of the ~~applicants~~ CANDIDATES described in subsection (3) of this section
13 specifically in the context of the requirements of standards-based
14 education pursuant to the requirements of part 10 of article 7 of this ~~title.~~
15 ~~Such~~ TITLE 22; EXCEPT THAT THE MINIMUM COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS
16 FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, ELEMENTARY, OR SPECIAL
17 EDUCATION GENERALIST LICENSURE ENDORSEMENT CANDIDATES WHO
18 CHOOSE TO DEMONSTRATE THE REQUIREMENTS THROUGH AN APPROVED
19 CONTENT-BASED OR A PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, AS DESCRIBED
20 IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION
21 OF METHODS, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION,
22 ARE SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION. The professional
23 competencies apply to ~~an applicant~~ A CANDIDATE only within the scope
24 of the subject matter to be taught by the ~~applicant~~ CANDIDATE.

25 (3) (a) Beginning in the 2023-24 academic year, ~~applicants~~
26 CANDIDATES for initial teacher licenses, and ~~applicants~~ CANDIDATES for
27 professional teacher licenses who did not demonstrate professional

1 competencies prior to obtaining an initial teacher license, may
2 demonstrate professional competencies by:

3 (b) The review panel may examine a portfolio of ~~course work~~
4 COURSEWORK, as described in subsection (3)(a)(II) of this section, for up
5 to one thousand ~~applicants~~ CANDIDATES for initial teacher licenses. The
6 review panel shall not examine a portfolio of ~~course work~~ COURSEWORK
7 for more than one thousand ~~applicants~~ CANDIDATES for initial teacher
8 licenses.

9 (6) For purposes of establishing minimum competency in a
10 licensure endorsement area, the state board of education shall establish
11 minimum ~~course work~~ COURSEWORK standards that align with the quality
12 standards established by the state board of education pursuant to section
13 22-2-109 (3). Attainment of the minimum ~~course work~~ COURSEWORK
14 standards may be shown in one of the following ways:

15 (a) For early childhood education, early childhood special
16 education, and elementary ~~teachers~~ CANDIDATES, including special
17 education generalist ~~teachers~~ CANDIDATES, demonstration of
18 competencies using the multiple measures set forth in subsection (3)(a)
19 of this section; EXCEPT THAT:

20 (I) AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CANDIDATE WHO
21 CHOOSES TO ATTAIN MINIMUM COURSEWORK STANDARDS BY
22 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING AN APPROVED CONTENT-BASED OR A
23 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
24 (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF METHODS, AS
25 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, MUST
26 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS THAT
27 MEASURE:

1 (A) KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAFE AND
2 EFFECTIVE PRACTICE OF A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER WHO SERVES
3 STUDENTS FROM BIRTH THROUGH THIRD GRADE; AND

4 (B) KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AN INITIAL TEACHER MUST HAVE TO
5 SUPPORT THE READING AND WRITING DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS IN
6 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE;

7 (II) AN ELEMENTARY CANDIDATE WHO CHOOSES TO ATTAIN
8 MINIMUM COURSEWORK STANDARDS BY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING AN
9 APPROVED CONTENT-BASED OR A PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, AS
10 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, OR THROUGH A
11 COMBINATION OF METHODS, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) OF
12 THIS SECTION, MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE NO MORE THAN TWO
13 ASSESSMENTS THAT MEASURE:

14 (A) MATHEMATICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT ARE
15 ESSENTIAL FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE; AND

16 (B) KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AN INITIAL TEACHER MUST HAVE TO
17 SUPPORT THE READING AND WRITING DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS IN
18 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE;

19 (III) A SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST CANDIDATE WHO
20 CHOOSES TO ATTAIN MINIMUM COURSEWORK STANDARDS BY
21 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING AN APPROVED CONTENT-BASED OR A
22 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
23 (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF METHODS, AS
24 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, MUST
25 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE NO MORE THAN TWO ASSESSMENTS THAT
26 MEASURE:

27 (A) BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GENERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND THE

1 APPLICATION OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES TO REALISTIC SITUATIONS; AND
2 (B) KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AN INITIAL TEACHER MUST HAVE TO
3 SUPPORT THE READING AND WRITING DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS IN
4 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE.

5 (b) For secondary ~~teachers~~ CANDIDATES:

6 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108.5, **add** (8)
7 as follows:

8 **22-35-108.5. Teacher recruitment education and preparation**
9 **(TREP) program - objectives - selection criteria - rules.**

10 (8) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER A PROGRAM OF
11 OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION AND THAT HAVE COURSES INCLUDED IN THE
12 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
13 23-1-108.5 (2), OR THAT ARE PART OF A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER
14 AGREEMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-108 (7), MAY PARTICIPATE
15 IN THE TREP PROGRAM ONLY IF THE COURSES ARE OFFERED AT A TUITION
16 RATE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE TUITION RATE ESTABLISHED BY THE
17 STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL
18 EDUCATION.

19 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-110, **amend**
20 (1) as follows:

21 **22-35-110. Exclusions.** (1) ~~The provisions of~~ EXCEPT FOR
22 COURSES OFFERED AS PART OF THE TREP PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
23 SECTION 22-35-108.5, this article 35 ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to any course
24 that is offered as part of a program of off-campus instruction established
25 pursuant to section 23-1-109 (1) to (5).

26 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
27 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

1 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
2 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
3 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
4 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
5 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
6 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
7 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.